

# TVA Kingston Coal Ash Release

## Fact Sheet

September 23, 2010



The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation continues to work in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to oversee ongoing recovery activities at the TVA Kingston site and to ensure compliance with the department's Commissioner's Order, which outlines the state's expectations for cleanup and restoration. With river dredging activities now complete, the "non-time critical" cleanup activities under EPA's Administrative Order on Consent are under way. Non-time critical activities include restoring the Swan Pond Embayment area and closing the failed dredge cell.

### ● NON-TIME CRITICAL ACTIVITIES

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, along with EPA and the federal Bureau of Reclamation, are reviewing all TVA engineering design work for the dredge cell closure and participating in formal design review meetings.

TDEC will continue to have personnel onsite full time as non-time critical activities progress.

### ● SITE MONITORING PLANS

As site activities change, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has reviewed and approved changes to site monitoring plans, including surface and drinking water, stormwater, air and cenosphery recovery plans.

**Surface Water:** TVA continues surface water sampling in the Emory and Clinch rivers as outlined in the River Sampling and Analysis Plan, including surface water sampling following rain events of more than one inch or 10,000 cubic feet per second. EPA splits all rain event sampling. TVA samples the clean water ditch, sediment pond and stilling pond discharges weekly, with EPA splitting samples every other week. The Department of Environment and Conservation will continue periodic river sampling events now that dredging is completed.

**Drinking Water:** TDEC will continue to sample the Kingston and Rockwood water treatment plants once a month until the end of the year, at which time the sampling plan will be revisited. The Kingston plant is also sampling weekly and following rain events. To date, there has not been any violation of drinking water standards at the plants. TDEC will

continue to sample sentinel wells in the area quarterly until the end of the year, at which time groundwater monitoring will continue under the River Sampling and Analysis Plan.

**Stormwater Runoff:** As Berkshire Embayment is excavated, exposed spring water will be isolated from the ash and routed to the clean water ditch whenever possible. Stormwater runoff from the failed cell will be re-routed to the ash pond to reduce loading and improve performance of the sediment ponds.

**Air:** The existing manual PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitors operated by TV A at the site have been replaced with continuous PM<sub>2.5</sub> federal equivalent method monitors with the approval of both TDEC and EPA. The new samplers operate continuously and provide data equivalent to the monitors they have replaced. The new samplers should require less on-site maintenance and servicing and do not require an operator to manually change filters between sample runs. They also do not require laboratory analysis to provide results. TDEC also continues to operate independent monitors in the area.

**Cenosphere Recovery:** Following the completion of dredging activities in the river, the quantity of recoverable cenospheres has also reduced. TVA will continue to monitor the river system for collection of cenospheres with reduced crews, particularly in areas where cenospheres have been historically collected and following high flow events. TVA continues to respond to outreach calls regarding cenospheres.

In addition, TVA is progressing with fish tissue and biota sampling as prescribed in the River Sampling and Analysis Plan. The Department of Environment and Conservation will continue to monitor the analytical results.

## • **TIME CRITICAL SITE STATISTICS UPDATE**

Approximately 3.5 million cubic yards of the ash released into the Emory River and Swan Pond embayment were recovered from the water under the time critical removal activities. More than 2.54 million cubic yards have been shipped off site by rail for disposal in an approved landfill in Alabama, with just less than one million cubic yards remaining for shipment. More than 240,000 cubic yards of ash was shipped off site in the month of August, making it a record month.

## • **KINGSTON FOSSIL PLANT OPERATIONS**

**Gypsum Scrubbers:** Unrelated to the ash spill, but related to the ongoing operations at the Kingston Fossil Plant, TVA continues commissioning the gypsum scrubbers at the Kingston Fossil Plant as TVA balances the system for the highest removal efficiency. The scrubbers will significantly decrease sulfur dioxide emissions from the plant. The scrubbers are successfully discharging into the gypsum landfill, which drains into the stormwater pond on the peninsula.

**Ash Management Plans:** The Department of Environment and Conservation has communicated to TVA from the beginning that new process ash from the Kingston Fossil Plant may not be disposed in the dredge cell currently being prepared for closure. Rather, the department required in the Commissioner's Order that TVA develop a short and long-term ash management plan. The department is in discussions with TVA concerning this plan for ash management.

## **Useful Web sites**

**Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation:**

<http://www.tn.gov/environment/kingston>

**Environmental Protection Agency:**

<http://www.epakingstontva.com>

**Tennessee Department of Health:**

<http://www.tn.gov/health>

**TVA:**

<http://www.tva.gov/kingston>

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to call TDEC's On-scene Coordinator at the Kingston Recovery Site, Barbara Scott. You can reach her at 865-230-1211, or by e-mail at [Barbara.Scott@tn.gov](mailto:Barbara.Scott@tn.gov).**

**TDEC has additional information and monitoring data on the department's TVA Kingston Update webpage at [www.tn.gov/environment/kingston](http://www.tn.gov/environment/kingston).**



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